

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – September 2, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Eric Miller, Chair called the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 7:08pm at Gahanna City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Cynthia Franzmann
Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Andy Piccolantonio
Jill Schuler
Vincent Tremante

Absent:

Jan Ross

In attendance from the City Administration was Troy Euton, Director, and Mike Musser, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Messinger made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2015 meeting; seconded by Schuler. **On roll call vote:** Franzmann, yes, Messinger, yes, Miller, yes, Piccolantonio, yes, Schuler, yes, and Tremante, yes. **Motion carried 6 – 0.**

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Miller and Euton agreed that there should be an additional discussion about park districts under New Business.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None

OLD BUSINESS

BTAC Update

Euton noted that BTAC minutes would be sent to the Board monthly via email. A discussion concerning the public processes of BTAC and the status of BTAC as a subcommittee occurred, and Euton stated that a memo concerning the BTAC mission statement would be sent to the Board the following day.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Districts

Miller suggested that the Board invite Dave Wharton to attend the next meeting as a guest speaker to discuss parks districts as a possible model for Gahanna to adopt. Euton stated that Wharton could describe his experience with New Albany and Plain Township, and how the parks district model may work in Gahanna. The Board discussed possible questions to ask Wharton, which would cover topics such as funding, economic benefit, and what in particular is working in New Albany.

Miller stated that the Board would put Wharton first on the agenda for the next meeting. Miller also noted that this would be an info-gathering discussion to better inform the public about possible options; this should not be considered an endorsement of any particular model.

CORRESPONDENCE

None. Euton shared that the Department would improve efforts to document any compliments or comments from the public so they could be shared with the Board.

DIRECTORS REPORT

New Gateway

Euton presented copies of the new Gateway, bikeway brochures, and golf course brochures to the Board.

BWT – Section 5

Euton shared that progress is under way for Section 5 of Big Walnut Trail. Contracts have been signed, and the Department is finishing up negotiations on a few details. The clearing contractors would be on site tomorrow to begin cleaning the area and removing trees, and then the project would move into the excavation phase.

McCutcheon Rd. Property

Euton shared that Clearpoint Church is now out of their contract with the developer, freeing them up to enter into a contract with the City of Gahanna. The City Attorney has been tweaking the sales contract, which would allow the city to acquire approximately 7.7 acres of land. The acquisition will hopefully be completed by mid-October.

Gahanna Woods Vernal Pool

Euton stated that the purchase of 1.8 acres for the Foxwood Phase 3 project (following the award from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund) will probably be closing in the middle of October. The site has been cleared and the storm pond has been rough-graded.

Veterans Park

Euton stated that the Department has met with the VFW and St. Matthews regarding the future Veterans Park. The purchase contract and lease-back should be complete by the end of the year. The VFW would be leasing the building on the grounds. Euton stressed that we would be buying the 6 acres of land at the VFW's request, and that there is no "government taking" or coercion involved. Legislation should be able to come forward in November.

Franzmann asked Euton how much the St. Matthews fields were appraised for, and Euton stated that the payment we received is in the form of an easement for the bike trail, worth \$3,000. The agreement states that the City would maintain the 11 acres of fields in perpetuity. While the City would own the fields, St. Matthews would be able to use the fields whenever they needed to. The acquisition of these fields is part of the Veterans Park Master Plan, in order to have well-maintained fields to span between the VFW fields and the pool.

Musser stated that his items of the Directors Report are included on the printed report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Aquatics Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time. Musser noted that there may be a bonus weekend for Hunters Ridge pool as a result of the poor weather this summer, though it depends on the weather and whether or not there will be lifeguards available.

Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee

Piccolantonio stated that the wooden boardwalk through the swamp might stay. It was also discussed at the BTAC meeting where the three locations for the new bike racks would be. Creekside Plaza, Town-High, and Herb Center were the top choices.

Implementation Team

Miller stated that the Implementation Team met immediately before the Parks Board meeting, where direct funding and communication were discussed. Specifically, the distribution of the Gateway was discussed. Miller shared that the next meeting wouldn't be until February 3, 2016.

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Nothing at this time.

Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation

Miller shared that the last meeting focused on the Hops & Vines fundraiser. Ticket sales and sponsorships have gone well. Tickets are still available.

Miller stated that because of weather, income would be down from the Creekside Live events.

Miller shared that a majority of the last Foundation meeting was spent discussing mission statements and taglines for the Foundation. Messinger stated that the tagline should be one sentence, repeatable by all, and understood by a sixth grader.

Veteran's Memorial Committee

Nothing at this time. Miller shared that the Veteran's Memorial Committee should be dropped from future agendas.

School Board Report

Schuler stated that the school year opened well, and that several things have come in under budget. They are exploring the need for a larger bond, since Lincoln Elementary needs to be torn down in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Miller made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Schuler. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikala Back, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015
